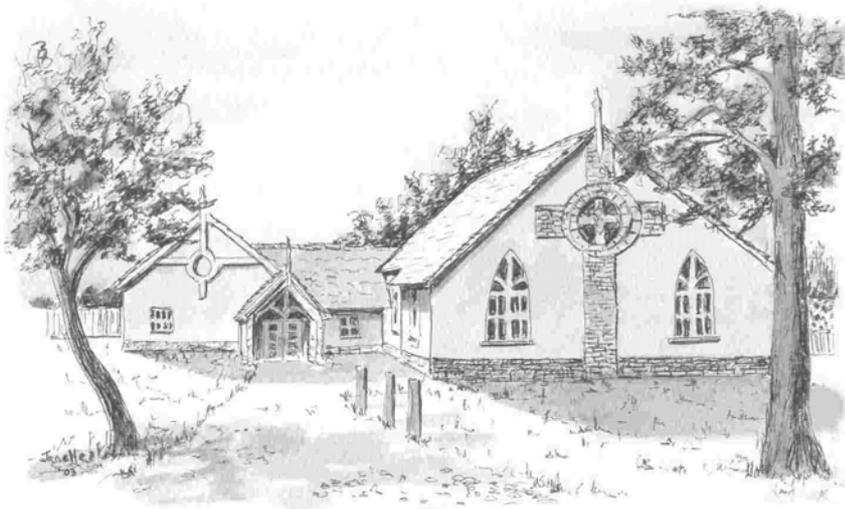


Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

November 2006

The Parish of Sonning

The ancient parish of Sonning, originally extending from Sonning Common to Sandhurst was one of the great blocks of land handed over to the Church in the 7th century. In 909 A.D. Sonning with Ramsbury, became a separate bishopric, the Bishop of Ramsbury/ Sonning maintaining a riverside Hall in the village. In 1075 the see was transferred to Old Sarum, ultimately Salisbury, whose bishops had their own Palace on the same site as the Saxon Hall until 1574, when the manor was transferred to the Crown.

St Andrew's Church in the heart of the village was founded in Saxon times - probably by Birinus, first bishop of Dorchester-on-Thames. It was largely rebuilt in 1852, during the incumbency of Canon Hugh Pearson; it was he who founded the Sonning Parish Magazine in 1869.

The White Hart Hotel, now known as The Great House, and partly 17th century, stands on the site of older buildings including the home of 'Elias the Ferryman' mentioned in a deed of 1100. The French Horn Hotel, in Sonning Eye, was built in the 1880s in front of the original old inn - now Bridge House - and its farm buildings. The Bull Inn, belonging to the Church, was originally known as Church House, a guesthouse for pilgrims to medieval St Sarik's Chapel in St Andrew's. Also adjoining the church is Deanery Garden one of Sir Edwin Lutyen's best-known country houses built at the turn of the century, just above the site of the ancient residence of the Deans of Salisbury who regularly visited Sonning, the parish being a 'Dean's Peculiar'.

Sonning Mill produced a regular supply of flour from Saxon time until 1969, after which it was converted into a 'Dinner Theatre', the first of its kind in Britain. The Pearson Hall is the principal venue for village functions

Within the village boundaries lie the Reading Blue Coat School at Holme Park (once the home of the Lord of the Manor) Sonning Church of England Primary School, King George's Field and other sports grounds, and Reading University Farm - all of which help to preserve the rural atmosphere of Sonning, the centre of which is now a conservation area.

The civil parish of Charvil is of relatively recent origin but the land on which it lies has long been part of the ecclesiastical parish of Sonning. In the 18th and 19th centuries it consisted of Charville Farm and a few cottages, which lay between the villages of Sonning and Twyford and adjacent to the London to Bath highway.

The development of Charvil began between the two World Wars, particularly after the new A4 road was constructed in the 1920s by-passing Twyford, and was accelerated after 1945. To meet the needs of this increasingly large community, St Patrick's dual-purpose Church and Hall was consecrated and

opened in 1952; it remains within the ecclesiastical parish of Sonning, It was considerably extended and refurbished in 2001.

St Andrew's Sonning Contacts

Clergy: Vicar	Canon C. G. Clarke, The Vicarage, Thames St, Sonning	969 3298
Associate Vicar	Rev Michael Forrer, 6 Park View Drive South, Charvil	934 1989
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr D. G. Sims, Vine Cottage, Pound Lane, Sonning	969 3151
	Mr R. J. Peters, Elm Gables, Parkway Drive, Sonning	969 3589
Churchwardens:		
	Mr Bob Hine, 28 Glebe Lane, Sonning, RG4 6XH	969 8653
	Mrs Jan Hammond	926 2365
	Mr J. M. Stansfield (Emeritus), 3 Strathmore Drive, Charvil	934 1762
Deputies:	Mr Mark Jordan	940 1431
	Charvil: Mr C M Easton, 8 Park View Drive South, Charvil	934 0795
Parochial Church Council:		
Secretary:	Mr Mark Jordan, 12 Manor Wood Gate, Lower Shiplake, RG9 3BY	940 1431
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Parish Magazine:		
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Forthcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>What's on?</i>	<i>Page</i>
Every Fri	Baby & Toddler Group, Pearson Hall	R
Nov 1	CE School PTA Ladies Shopping Evening 7.30 p.m.	
Nov 3	SWMC Music night	R
Nov 11	FoStAC, Reading Male Voice Choir	
Nov 11	RNLI Annual Dinner	
Nov 12	Waingels College Craft Fair	
Nov 18	SVP Pantorama, Pearson Hall	
Nov 18	RME Inner Wheel; Reading Phoenix Choir	
Nov 20	Sonning Glebe W.I. Christmas party	
Nov 25	CE School PTA Christmas Fayre 11.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.	R
Nov 30	Sonning Royal British Legion A.G.M. St Sarik Rm	
Dec 1	SWMC Music night with 'Terrie'	
Dec 9	PHSC Christmas supper	
Dec 14	Flower Club Christmas luncheon	
Dec 15	SWMC Christmas dinner & dance	
Dec 18	Sonning Glebe W.I. Christmas party	
Dec 31	SWMC - To be advised	
Feb 26	Flower Club "Floratisimo"	

Deadline, December Magazine is 4.00 p.m. Friday, 24th Nov 2006.

Update of St Andrew's Book of Remembrance

If you would like an entry in the Book of Remembrance, then please provide the information below to Carole Barnett on 0118 969 6693 or email her at gordonbarnett@btinternet.com:

The persons': Name
 Date of birth
 Date of death.

Carole Barnett

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Regular Services

The Parish Church

Sundays	8 am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
	10.30 am	Family Service, first Sunday of the month Parish Eucharist, second, fourth and fifth Sundays Matins, third Sunday
	6.30 pm	Evensong, except third Sunday of the month, when it will be Holy Communion with the laying on of hands for those who wish it.
Wednesdays	10 am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's

St Patrick's Charvil

Sundays	9.30 am	Family Service, first Sunday of the month Holy Communion, second and fourth Sundays Worship Service other Sundays Sunday School 9.30 am except first Sunday of the month
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If you would like to arrange a Thanksgiving for the birth of a child, a Baptism (please give at least one month's notice of your intention), a Marriage or a Funeral, please contact the Vicar. Please note that the Vicar hopes to take Monday as a day off, although urgent matters will of course be dealt with.

The Vicar's Letter

Back to Church Sunday

The Bishop of Reading has asked all Churches in Berkshire to promote "Back to Church Sunday" on 26th November. The idea is to invite anyone in our parish who has some connection with the church to come to church that day. Perhaps you know someone who used to come to Church or someone who attends only occasionally and if so please invite them to come to Church with you on 26th. November.

Many people who celebrate weddings or who have used the Church or Churchyard for funerals have good will towards the Church but do not find much time in their busy lives to worship with us on Sundays. If you are such a person I write to assure you we will be delighted if you can attend on 26th November - or indeed any other Sunday.

The hope is that by running the "Back to Church Sunday" on an Archdeaconry level it will give the project more impact. Many parishes are preparing for this Sunday by distributing invitations and prayer cards to every house. We considered this but because of our Mission earlier in the year, when every house was leafleted, we thought we would take a more

low key approach. That does not mean we will be any less welcoming or are not very enthusiastic about wanting new people to join us!

In my experience a conversation or personal invitation has more impact than any number of leaflets. Please pray about "Back to Church Sunday" and think about whom you might invite to come with you on that day. Our Church Services will be at their usual times with the 8.00am and 6.30pm in St. Andrew's being from the traditional Prayer Book. The 9.30am service at St. Patrick's and the 10.30am at St. Andrew's are both Communion Services from Common Worship. Both have provision for young children and coffee after the service.

Everyone will be particularly welcome on 26th November and please do not think that because you cannot bring anyone with you it might be better to stay away yourself! If anyone would like to attend but needs transport please speak to me, or one of the Churchwardens and we will gladly arrange a lift for you. We may not have leafleted every house but I hope you will regard this as a personal invitation and I do assure you we will all be very pleased if you are able to join us.

Love & prayers
Chris

From the Registers

Confirmation: 7th October at St. Andrew's Church

Ronald Sydney Brooker, Marjorie Winifred Strange, Joyce May Smith, Olive Jeanette Bratchell, Nicola Jane Pryce, Patricia Ann Livesey, Anne Catherine Laflin, Thomas Pike, Gregory Crosswell, Georgina McCluskey, Sarah Sauver.

Weddings

23rd Sep: James Gary Anthony Morris to Deborah Ellen Bennett
23rd Sep: Nicholas John Cary to Karin Elizabeth Ridgers
30th Sep: Jason Edgar Peacock to Keira Mairi Joan McMinn
7th Oct: Mark Pluse to Clare Rebecca Williams

Funerals

30th Aug: Joan Mary Collard (Ashes buried in Churchyard)
1st Sep: Julie Grosvenor (Ashes buried in Churchyard)
7th Sep: Florence Carol Easter Maidment (Ashes buried in Churchyard)
22nd Sep: Arthur John Stevens (Ashes buried in Churchyard)
24th Oct: Paul Carradine (Ashes buried in Churchyard)

Remembrance Sunday

The Annual Service of Remembrance will be held at St. Andrew's Church on Sunday 12th November at 10.30am. The Parade, which will be led by the Reading Salvation Army Band, will leave Pearson Hall at 10.00am. Those not taking part in the parade but coming to the Service are requested to arrive early and take their seats before the parade arrives. The High Street will be closed to traffic soon after 10.00am and parking in the village is likely to be difficult because of the many extra people taking part in this important and memorable occasion.

Churchyard Working Party

There will be a working party in and around the Churchyard on Saturday 18th November from 9.00a.m. and we would be grateful for your help. Some of the paths need weeding and some extra gravel also needs to be spread out. In addition to this we need to plant the new hedge around the extension to the burial ground. In other words there are light as well as heavy jobs to be done. The more who turn out the sooner we will finish so do join us if you can spare two or three hours that morning. We have some tools but it would help if you could bring spades, rakes and implements for cutting branches off a few of the overhanging trees. Strimmers would also be useful.

Gift Service

An early reminder that at the Family Services on Sunday 3rd December we collect toys and presents (nothing perishable please) for children and young people from the area who will have few or no Christmas presents. Please bring a gift, suitably wrapped in Christmas paper and labelled indicating the age, and where appropriate the sex, of the child it is intended for. Last year we were asked to remember that gifts are needed as much for teenagers as for very young children and several brought things suitable for this age group.

Chris.

Jottings from St Patrick's

November is a noisy month, not least because of Bonfire night and Guy Fawkes who failed in his attempt to blow up the House of Commons. The bangs and "whoosh" of rockets precede and follow the night of November 5th, frightening the life out of the animal kingdom. Finding the time and finding a place for peace and quiet is not easy in our day and age of noise, bustle and activity. Finding a "quiet time" before the children get up or after they have gone to school or to sleep at night is far from easy but it is essential if we are not to succumb to being overstressed.

A quiet time is essential for everyone whether you are religious or not, whether you are a disciple of the Christian faith or not. It is a time to collect ones thoughts or to reflect on God's blessings and to listen to what He is trying to tell us. Meditation and contemplative prayer are potential food for the soul, which help us to keep everything in perspective and to clear our minds of the "junk" that crowds out positive and clear thinking, enabling us to achieve a balance in our lives.

The prophet Isaiah summed it up in the words "in stillness and in staying quiet, there lies your strength" (Isaiah 30, v 15).

For many people the Sunday services at St Patrick's and St Andrews give the space and opportunity to catch up with ourselves. Why not book your Christmas Service early in your diary this year to do just that?

Love and prayers

Michael and family.

"Bye Nigel"

Boss said to me "Joanna, we're in trouble, you know what the idiot has gone and done". Which idiot I thought to myself, there's so many of 'em I lose track. There's the bosses boss and faith, the deputy bosses boss who keeps goin' on about no 7, the organ grinder who beats the hell out of me just to remind me of my place and the boss 'iself, who tries to juggle with me ivories and tie knots in me strings. "Boss" I says, "I'm confused, there's so many idiots at the top round here, which one is it?" "No no Jo" he says "you got it wrong again, it's not at the top, it's Nigel". "Which one, 'im as looks like an Armish preacher or the heckler from the back?" "The heckler Joanna, and for your information he does more than heckle".

"Ok" I says "so he always comes to set up the church & reads the lessons & puts away the chairs & stops the bosses bosses tribe running riot & sings lustily & he's always there to help you out of the messes you keep getting into by going away or trying to keep the place clean & utters words of wisdom at the most opportune moment & reminds the bosses boss of things he's forgotten & organises them side persons & tells you when you've hit too many bum notes & papers over all the cracks & looks after the keys when you ain't there & helps beautify the place for Christmas & dresses up like an idiot to entertain at the Christian aid concerts and cooks all the bangers at the barbecue's - but what else has he dun?"

"He's leavin' Jo, he's leaving, he's goin' down the M4 to welsh Wales and he ain't comin' back!" Well I thought to meself, that's a bummer. 'ow we gonna cope? "Boss" I said, "This is serious, can't you get his exit visa cancelled or something?"

"No Jo" he says "It's a done deal, he's sold up and he's off next week. All we can do is give him a good send off". "Ok boss, I'll do me best, play the hymns like I've never played before. Tell him from me to take care won't you, and he can come back and visit can't he?"

"I hope so Jo."

Nigel, thanks for all you've done for us
Always there, without a fuss
The cheery face to welcome all
Who step into our Church hall
And work your socks off at the back
To make sure we don't get slack
And help to show that in this place
There's love and peace, and above all, faith.

Joanna (the St Patrick's Pianner)

Sunday Club

St Andrews "Sunday Club" is now officially launched. This is run from 10.30am until just after 11.00am on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday mornings of the month (the holy communion services). The children will then re-join their parents for the blessing during the communion service.

We are based in the St Sarik room and cater for babies through to primary school children. There are fun activities, stories, songs and games based around the bible readings of the day.

Many thanks to the dedicated adult and young volunteers who kindly help to run the "Sunday Club", these include: Sarah Chard, Cathy Haill, Sam Kilgour, Alice Wilkinson, Kristina Jackson, Anna Pinner and Tania Sczabawich. May I also pass on my personal thanks to Alice for her dedication over the past 6 years in organising and running the crèche and to the congregations of St Andrews and St Patrick's for their prayers of support.

I pray that this facility will lead to a busy Sunday school being permanently established at St Andrews and look forward to seeing you and your children at the "Sunday Club" in the near future. If you have any comments or queries please contact me as I would be pleased to hear your views.

Heather Hexter

Sonning Book Club

I am pleased to record that the number of new members has grown over the year to reach our maximum; consequently any new names will have to go on a waiting list pending a possible vacancy next year.

Last month's book 'The Pilot's Wife' by Anita Shreve was generally well received with very few negative comments. The current book under review is a former Pulitzer Prize winner 'Interpreter of Maladies' by Jhumpa Lahiri, that gives club members the unusual opportunity to consider nine short stories.

Anne Webster

Royal British Legion - Sonning Branch (BR 1817)



Subscriptions

There are some renewals still to come in. Please do not delay or your membership will lapse!

Remembrance Sunday, 12th November 2006

09.50: Meet at the Pearson Hall.
10.00: March off.

Remember, now is your last chance to order a wreath from Malcolm Geater.

A.G.M. 30th Nov 2006

The A.G.M. will be held in the St Sarik Room, alongside St Andrew's Church, 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. The committee look forward to you joining them for a glass of wine before the meeting.

Gordon Barnett

Sonning Glebe W.I.

We had a wonderful Harvest Supper, the food was delicious and there was a lot of laughter as our after dinner speaker entertained us with his "odd odes". The money raised at the raffle is going to be donated to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

Our knit "n" Natter group has knitted enough squares to complete 2 blankets; these will be going to the Feed the Children Charity. We welcomed visitors for our Birthday meeting in October. We had an excellent talk about "showbiz" and enjoyed a supper followed by Birthday cake.

The speaker on 20th November will be talking about Prison work. On 18th December we will be having our Christmas Party, a reminder to members to bring a "Bran Tub" present up to the value of £5. We have welcomed several new members over the past couple of months and would welcome anyone who would like to visit.

Diane Reeves

Friends of St. Andrew's Church,
Sonning

NEXT EVENT

READING MALE VOICE CHOIR

Saturday 11TH NOVEMBER 2006

7.30pm at St. Andrew's Church

**An evening of fine choral music from Reading's very
Popular male voice choir.**

With guest Soloist

TICKETS £10 per person from:

Wendy Williams (969 6609), Heather Hine (969 8653)

or John Hammond (926 2365)

Wine and nibbles included

Update Re No 6 The High Street Sonning.

My family has owned number 6, The High Street since 1924. We have always let it to individuals as business premises, and mostly the people running the business have also lived there.

You may remember some of the changes that have taken place over the last few decades. It was the Butcher's Shop, run by Mr Bert Huggins until the early nineteen eighties. After that it was a café called the *Tea Cosy* run by Mrs Jean Ede. From 1996 Mr Roger Thompson and his wife Diana ran it as a café and a general store. Subsequently it was run as a café, general store and post office for a while and then as a post office and café/restaurant called *Blayes*. The post office and café/ restaurant closed last year.

I am thrilled that the premises have now reopened after refurbishment. The new tenants are Mr Abdul Ali and Mr Abdul Halim. They have named their business *The Ivy at Sonning*. The premises are now used as tearooms, restaurant and shop. The restaurant offers Indian cuisine. The tearooms offer teas, coffee, home made cakes, biscuits etcetera. The shop offers a variety of items, some of particular interest to locals and some to tourists.

Winifred Blay

Sonning Art Group

Maggie Hollidge carried off the Chairman's Challenge Cup this month for the 'Design a Christmas Card' award. Competition was strong with some excellent traditional and modern designs submitted for consideration.

Most of the members will now be using their designs to produce Christmas Cards on their computers for their family and friends enabling their artistic talents to be put to good practical use this year.

George Webster

Sonning Village Players
Proudly presents

"Pantorama"

On Saturday 18th November 2006
In the Pearson Hall

A light supper will be provided on the evening.
Feel free to bring your own drinks (alcoholic or non) with or you may purchase drinks from Sonning Working Men's Club next door.

The cost of this 'one off - never to be repeated (this year)
performance is ONLY £8 per adult.

For tickets please call 0779 262 1681 leaving your name and a return phone number or email julie59106@yahoo.com. We will then confirm tickets.
Seating is on tables of 8 - 10.

Sonning Village Children In Need Evening 2006

One of those "Good News, Bad News" situations! Bad news first, did I hear you say?

The bad news is that, despite very welcome responses to last month's article from two different sources, the Sonning Village Children In Need Evening will not take place this year. This will be a large disappointment to many of us, I know. However, despite some very good intentions, it soon became apparent that there was just too much work to do, and too little time.

The good news, however, is that plans have already started for "Children in Need 2007"! One of the persons that responded to last month's plea has

vowed to ensure that Sonning does play its part next year. We sincerely thank her for that and wish her good luck in her endeavours.

Watch this space in 2007!

Trefor Fisher

Waingels College, Denmark Avenue, Woodley

Craft Fair; Sunday, 12th November 10am - 4pm.

This is the College Association's main fund raising event of the year. With over 50 stalls, many of them new, why not make November 12th a fun day's Christmas shopping for all the family? Dozens of raffle prizes, refreshments available all day. Admission: Adults £1, under 18s Free. Free Car Park.

Gordon Murray-Smith

Brownies

At our first week back we went outside and enjoyed Parachute games and an obstacle course. We also discussed the term and decided to work towards our World Guiding badge, for this they have found out facts about America, made posters and made Anzac Cookies from Australia.

As Sonning Guides are not running at the moment, as we have been unable to find any adult help, we offered to make bread to decorate the Church for Harvest. Our sixers and seconds made various shapes out of the dough.

The day after the new playground was opened the Brownies spent the first part of the meeting trying out all the new play equipment; I think we can say it was a great success.

Kezia, one of our Young Leaders, ran a meeting where the Brownies made a large Get Well card for Panda and learnt about the names of flowers. They also enjoyed learning a new game. The reason for the Get Well card is that Panda has had an operation, the operation went well and we send her our Best Wishes.

The Brownies also held a game at the Produce Show, attended the Harvest Service at Church and joined the Brownies from Charvil, Hurst and Twyford in the District Swimming Gala.

If anyone is interested in finding out about Guiding in Sonning please phone Diane on 07813 433 493.

Brown Owl



Inner Wheel Club of Reading Maiden Erlegh
presents
A Charity Concert by the



READING PHOENIX CHOIR

Saturday 18th November 2006

Commencing at 7.30pm prompt, (Doors open 7pm)
at

Leighton Park School, Shinfield Road, Reading RG2 7ED

In aid of
the purchase of equipment for the Cardiology Department,
Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Ticket £15 (includes a glass of wine during the interval)

Available from: Chris Read, 0118 966 6668

Sonning Twinning Association

Beaujolais Nouveau Evening: 16th November 7.30pm Pearson Hall.

Our next event on 16th November is a cheese and pâté supper with, of course, a glass or two of Beaujolais Nouveau, followed by a quiz with a French flavour. We will also invite our young Twinning Association Bursary winners to tell us about their experiences in visiting Ligugé this summer. Tickets are available from David Bates (0119 9697753 or dpbates@supanet.com) at £7.50 for Twinning Association members, £10 for None members.

Mary Chapman

Little Fishes Baby and Toddler Group

Little Fishes will meet on Tuesday, 7th November from 10am to 11.30am in the St Sarik Room, next to St Andrew's Church. Please join us for play, craft activities, story and songs. All pre-school aged children and their parents/carers are welcome.

Sarah Turner

Sonning & Sonning Eye Society

Hedge Laying Demonstration

If you happen to receive this copy of the Parish Magazine before Sunday 5 November, you will not be too late to consider dropping into our hedge-laying demonstration on Saturday 4 November. This is taking place off Broadmoor Lane on University farmlands. John Woodhouse is running this event for us and will kick off at 10:00 am with a brief talk and video in the Living Van, and then he will begin the live demonstration. There will be a

re-run of his talk and the video at lunchtime. One or two Society members (Bob Hine and Nick Siney for instance) will be receiving training in the craft. If you would like to watch, we recommend wrapping up appropriately - November weather can be funny and unpredictable. Work will continue throughout the day until light fails, and will proceed even if it drizzles. Please remember to bring a chair or shooting stick to perch on. Come for as long as you like. Tickets at £4.00 include hot refreshments and cover the cost of John's materials; they are available from Diana Coulter on 969 2132.

A.G.M. Saturday, 25th November

Our next major event will be the AGM and Supper for Members on Saturday 25 November in the Pearson Hall, while on Friday 26 January 2007, there will be a film evening in the Blue Coat School, which will feature some early -mid 20th century footage of Sonning. Information on all our events can be found on the Society's website.

Diana Coulter

Sonning Parish Council

Sonning's New Playground Opens

At 4pm on Tuesday 26 September, Ligugé Way in Sonning was filled with some 200 hundred excited children and their parents for the opening of our new playground by Malcolm Stansfield, MBE.

The opening marked the culmination of an appeal, which was launched just over a year ago to replace the old equipment, which was worn out by nearly 40 years of hard use. Children had voted on their favourite equipment, company's submitted plans and in July, parents and children made their choice.

The cost at nearly twice the annual Parish Council budget was well beyond our means. It was only made possible by the many generous donations from local clubs, organisations, companies and individuals. I would particularly like to thank the Sonning Scarecrow Committee for donating all of this years record profit of £12,500, Wokingham District Council for acquiring development money for us, Awards for All, the Sonning Fire Brigade Trust, Sonning Golf Club, the Berkshire Masonic Lodge and to Uri Geller in generously opening his house for a fund raising event. John Hicks arranging to remove the old slide and fencing and Axworthy Plant Hire who loaned us the security fencing saved money. Whether it was 50p at the Village Show or a much larger sum, every single penny has counted; this has been a real community project.

However, it would not have been achieved without the commitment and energy of Pam Glasspool. Pam launched this project, on behalf of the Council, just over a year ago and has driven it through on time and on

budget. She has devoted a huge amount of effort to it and can feel justly proud of a facility that will bring enjoyment and stimulation to local children for many, many years to come.

We have achieved a great deal on the recreation ground over the past year or so: A resurfaced car park, new windows for our pavilion, a football goal and basketball for teenagers, new tree planting and new seats. However, this has been our greatest challenge and the icing on the cake. Now, onward to the next project!

Steve Chapman

Pearson Hall Social Committee

The PHSC will be hosting their annual Christmas Supper on Saturday 9th December 2006, 7.30 pm at the Pearson Hall.

Tickets, priced at £12.50 per head will be on sale from November 6th. To apply, please forward cheques, made payable to PHSC, to Meryem Parker, Acre Cottage, Thames Street, Sonning, RG4 6UR. Please include a **stamped addressed envelope** with a note of your **telephone number** for the return of tickets or cheques in case your bid is unsuccessful.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Meryem Parker

Community Shop Evaluation Group

Our thanks to everyone who attended the meeting on 9 October or returned questionnaires regarding a possible community shop and part-time Post Office for Sonning. From those, we have much appreciated the offers of financial support and volunteers prepared to help in some way. Our small group has been happy to research various options for a community shop but to be successful such a shop needs the support of a large part of the local community and importantly a group of people prepared to give their energy to drive the project forward. So far we have had four offers from people willing to join the Management Committee and so, unless more people are willing to join the Committee, it is unlikely the project will go forward.

To enjoy financial support from The Post Office, our Post Office would have to be re-established by January 2007. If, therefore, there are more people prepared to join the Management Committee, please contact Lesley Bates, Clerk to the Parish Council, Council Office, Pearson Road, Sonning RG4 6UL (telephone 9697753) as soon as possible.

We thank residents who attended the meeting, returned questionnaires and made offers of help. All comments have been very useful in helping us evaluate the project.

Mary Chapman

=====
||| Sonning Floral Arrangement Society
||| Is pleased to present
||| **“Floratisimo”**
||| A stunning example of flower arranging by National
||| Demonstrator
||| **Ian Buxton**
||| In aid of Daisy’s Dream and Breakthrough Breast Cancer
||| To be held at The Mill at Sonning,
||| 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 26th February 2007
||| Doors and bar open 6.00 p.m.
||| Tickets £10.00 each.
||| Call Sharon on 0118 969 0748
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The October demonstrator was Colin Evans, who broadcasts about horticulture at 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday (as does David Penny) on BBC Radio Berkshire. He showed us how to plant up a big glass jar with three plants; how to do a Pot et Fleur (plants and flowers in the same container) and also planting and keeping an orchid. If you didn’t come on this occasion, you missed some very useful tips, as well as a very amusing afternoon and a chance to win one of these items in the raffle (unlike me, I won the planted jar).

Next month’s demonstrator, on the 9th of November, will be Mrs Tan Strong and her subject will be *A Culinary Christmas*. The competition will be an arrangement in a wine bottle. The Christmas luncheon is on the 14th of December and will be followed by the A.G.M. Tickets at £11.00 are available from Sue Doyle on 0118 969 3605. Don’t forget, bring your own wine.

Jane Gascoine

RNLI Sonning Branch

2nd Annual Dinner, guest speaker: Trevor Baylis. Following the success of our Dinner last year we have organized another for Saturday 11th November at 7pm for 8pm in The Pearson Hall. There will be a four-course meal followed by our guest speaker, inventor of the "wind up radio" and TV personality, Trevor Baylis. A bar will be available.

The Box office will be open from 2nd October for tickets price £15 each. Telephone Mo Hicks on 969 6943. Dress: Black Tie.

Lynn Woodhouse

Airline Humour!

Remember, it takes a college degree to fly a plane but only a high school diploma to fix one: Reassurance for those of us who fly routinely.

After every flight, Qantas pilots fill out a form, called a "gripe sheet", which tells mechanics about problems with the aircraft. The mechanics correct the problems; document their repairs on the form. Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by Qantas' pilots (P) and the solutions recorded (S) by maintenance engineers. By the way, Qantas is the only major airline that has never had an accident.

P: Left inside main tyre almost needs replacement.

S: Almost replaced left inside main tyre.

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.

S: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit.

S: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Suspected crack in windshield.

S: Suspect you're right.

P: Number 3 engine missing.

S: Engine found on right wing after brief search.

P: Aircraft handles funny. (I love this one!)

S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.

And the best one for last:

P: Noise coming from under instrument panel. Sounds like a midget pounding on something with a hammer.

S: Took hammer away from midget

Local Organisations

St Andrew's: Sunday Club	Heather Hexter	946 1316
St Andrew's: Little Fishes	Mrs Sarah Turner	944 8154
St Andrew's: Sunday School	Jan Hammond	926 2365
St Andrew's: Tower Captain:	Mrs P. Elliston	969 5967
The Friends of St Andrew's	Wendy Williams	969 6609
St Patrick's: Sunday School	Catherine Balchin	934 2840
1st Charvil Rainbows	Guider: Brenda Cowdery	934 5698
Charvil Art Club	Secretary: Mr W.G. Crane	934 5791
Charvil Branch Conservatives	Mrs E. Hobbs	934 0528
Charvil Brownies	Tawny Owl: Claire Howells	934 5372
Charvil Guides	Naomi Simpson	934 1392
Charvil Caterpillar Club	Sandy Moffatt	934 9794
Charvil Parish Council	Clerk: Mr I. Cohen	901 7693
Charvil Pre-School Playgroup	Secretary: Helen Myers	934 2144
Charvil Senior Residents Club	Miss C. Edwards	969 2114
Charvil Women's Club	Mrs S. Newman	934 0589
Charvil Youth Club	Jo Holden	934 4701
Sonning & Charvil Baby-sitting Circle	Mrs Vanessa Jones <i>E-mail</i> vanessalouisejones@hotmail.com	934 1185
Sonning & District Chernobyl Children's Lifeline Link Group	Maria Gee maria.gee@ntlworld.com	962 7721
Sonning Art Group	Chairman: Mr G.B. Webster	944 0699
Sonning Book Club	Mrs Anne Webster	944 0699
Sonning Branch, British Legion	Chairman: Gordon Barnett	969 6693
Sonning Brownies	Leader: Miss D. Reeves	969 2987
Sonning C of E Primary School	Head Teacher: Mrs L. Green	969 3399
Sonning Conservatives	Secretary: Mary Jones	944 2877
Sonning Cricket Club	Membership: Ali Driver	969 2698
Sonning Flower Club	Secretary: Ms S. Robinson	969 0748
Sonning Glebe Art Club	Julian Toms	969 0100
Sonning Glebe WI (eve mtgs)	Mrs D. Mouldsley	961 8829
Sonning Guides	Leader: Sue Jones	969 6628
Sonning Lawn Tennis Club	Membership info: Ali Campbell	969 2646
Sonning Liberal Democrats	John Edmonds	969 0017
Sonning Neighbourhood Watch	Sec: Sue Bell	969 6924
Sonning Parish Council	Clerk, Mrs L. Bates	969 7753
Sonning Rainbow Guides	Leader: Mrs Debbie Knox	969 4470
Sonning RNLI	Chairman: David Bates	969 7753
Sonning School PTA	Chairman: Mr Ian Clark	375 9119

1st Sonning Scouts Group	GS Leader: Wendy Cherry	926 2363
1st Sonning Scouts Group	Scout Leader: Mike Watts	962 8388
1st Sonning Scouts Group	Cub Scout Leader:	
1st Sonning Scouts Group	Beaver Scout Ldr: Trefor Fisher	969 3279
Sonning Table Tennis Club	Alan Tinson	969 0782
Sonning Twinning Association	David Bates	969 7753
Sonning Toddler Group	Elizabeth Tonge	969 2080
Sonning Village Players	Secretary: Mr S. Atkins	969 1134
Sonning & Sonning Eye Society	Secretary: Mrs P. Feathers	934 3193
Sonning Village Show	Secretary: Mrs Heather Hine	969 8653
Sonning Working Men's Club	Secretary: Bob Hulley	969 9431
Friends of Ali's Pond	Alastair Driver	969 2698
Masquerade Drama & Dance Group for Young People	Clare Hatfield	07973 918225
Monday Club	Leader: Ken Trimmings	969 1072
Pearson Hall	Caretaker & Bookings: Mrs Jenny Adams	969 7692
Pearson Hall Mgmt Committee	Secretary: Mr Colin McEwen	934 0300
Badminton Club	Mrs P. Pardoe	934 5643
Longmead Bridge Club	Chairman: Tony Cowling	969 5181
Rotary Club of Loddon Vale	Secretary: Norman Mouldsley	961 8829
Serinette Ladies Choir	Suzanne Newman	934 0589
Short Mat Bowling Club	Mrs S. Newman	934 0589
Tuesday Club	Mrs Marjorie Bennet	934 5059
Vivace Girls Choir	Suzanne Newman	934 0589

Ali's Pond	E-mail: ali@sonningdrivers.plus.com www.sonning.net/alispond.html
Sonning & Charvil services	www.sonningparish.org.uk/docs.htm
Sonning Working Men's Club	www.btinternet.com/~sonning_club/news.html
Sonning-on-Thames	archive.museophile.sbu.ac.uk/sonning www.sonning.net
Sonning & Sonning Eye Society	www.sonning.org.uk
Sonning Art Group	www.sonningartgroup.org.uk
Sonning School	www.sonning.wokingham.sch.uk